

South Lynden Watershed Improvement District

Minutes for: March 12, 2019 Meeting, 3 pm – 5 pm

Ag Central 204 Hawley Street Lynden, WA 98264

Ed Blok Jeff De Jong Landon Van Dyk
 Rod Vande Hoef Rolf Haugen

Henry Bierlink Randy Honcoop Fred Likkel
 Aneka Sweeney Heather McKay Sherm Polinder
x = present *o = absent with notice* *t = teleconference*

I. Consent Agenda

- a. Review and Approval of January 15 Minutes
- b. Financial Report and payment of bills – *see financial report*

Rod moved approval of the Consent Agenda, Ed seconded, motion carried unanimously.

II. Administration

- a. Potential candidates for future board positions – Henry circulated a list of parcel owners within the WID with more than 10 acres of land. The idea of having a list of interested individuals that would be willing to receive and review the agendas and attend occasional meetings was advanced. Henry also asked for correction in ownership as the list was generated from a database over 5 years old.
- b. Strategic Planning – review annual priorities on website, Management Plan – a call from Chris Clark asking about the board's perspective on EQIP funding generated a conversation about what are the priority tools for helping farmers address water quality protection. There was strong support for maintaining EQIP funding for manure storage as this is the key element of a nutrient management plan. Without proper storage all management decisions become much more risky. Irrigation management was also discussed as an important element to reduce the potential of nitrate leaching.

III. Ag Water Board/Water Supply

- a. Drainage Based Management – Henry reported
 - Expect Ecology funding – should know mid-March
 - Puget Sound Partnership Near Term Action funding possible
 - One of the elements in the WRIA #1 5-year Action Plan
 - Meetings to set up where, when, and how DBM occurs
 - Likely beginning in Drayton, Bertrand
 - Establish a Core Group that works together in each drainage – 2 WID, 2 County, 2 Tribe, PUD, WDFW, DOE.
- b. Watershed Management Board and Planning Unit update
 - PU continuing to work on update to 2005 Plan
 - Management Board returning to implementing 5-year workplan

IV. Drainage/Habitat

- a. FLIP process – looking for pilot projects – Fred updated the Board on the FLIP process. It has been slowed a bit by not having high flows this winter to provide needed data. Recent emphasis is on identifying potential early action items and determining which should be prioritized. Fred reminded the Board that it is quite likely Whatcom PW Flood Division will receive state funding which includes \$600k for an ag/fish/flood project(s). He is challenging WIDs with river frontage to generate potential projects. Ideas discussed were the Cougar Creek tidegates and several sites south of Timon Road where off-channel projects might be created.

V. Water Quality

- a. Monitoring Results – generally good

- b. Portage Bay – on January 23rd the opening of the spring closure was announced. WFF is providing a press release celebrating this success story.
- c. Vigilance – Fred reviewed some pictures WSDA had provided at the Manure Mgt. Training session in January. Much has improved but there are still issues that need continued attention. The water quality alert letter sent out by the WID in January was also noted
- d. Ecology Nitrate monitoring project – Fred reviewed a presentation Ecology had provided on nitrates in north Whatcom groundwater. They did a major follow-up study to the 1997 report in 2018. Nitrates were trending lower but there were still issues along the BC border. Ecology is seeking cooperative landowners in the Bertrand and North Lynden WIDs to provide them sites for monitoring wells.
- e. DNA source tracking project report – CD looking for sampling sites, wildlife – snow geese were mentioned as they are prolific

VI. Education/Communications

- a. Website - www.southlyndenwid.com
- b. Open Public Meetings Act training was provided for Board members

VII. Other Items from Commissioners

- a. Fish Screens – Jeff provided an update on the screening opportunity presented by WDFW in January. He was working with them to make the program more user friendly.

VIII. Adjournment/Next Meetings

April 9

Respectfully submitted by Henry Bierlink, Ag Water Board

Approved by _____